

isn't taken from our tax revenue. This comes strictly from the oil industry. They pay for these people, and it's nothing off of our tax. So I can see no reason why there should be any objection to this, and I think the rest of the state should have some representation here. I hope that you see fit to vote for this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion on the Merz amendment to LB 90? Senator Clark, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes. This is about the same amendment he had on General File on this. I'd like to really explain what the Commissioners are. These Commissioners are paid for by the oil and gas people. There is a severance tax on oil at two percent in the first place. That goes to the general school fund. One and a half mills on the oil production of the state goes for the Oil and Gas Commission, or the conservation of oil. The duties of the Commissioners really are...when they hold a hearing on spacing, on pooling, anything to do with property is the only thing they do. They don't go out and cement wells. They don't go out and look at them. The Oil and Gas Commission themselves, the personnel, does that, but not the Commissioners. The Commissioners' sole duty is to hold the hearings on this, and they do not hold hearings on a well being drilled. If someone wants to drill a well, that goes right through the Commission. They pay seventy-five dollars for the permit and they drill it. The Commissioners, themselves, do not go out and do this. Now, the Oil and Gas Commission certainly is much against adding any more Commissioners than what they have, the three Commissioners. Now there is one Commissioner coming up this fall for reelection, and if Senator Merz would like to have a Commissioner in his district for some reason, I don't know what it is, but whatever it is, if he'd like to have it, he can certainly get the Governor to appoint one from his District, and he'd have one down there. Richardson County produces about forty thousand barrels of oil a year out of six million. All the rest of it is out in the western end of the state. I would certainly oppose this and I know that the Oil and Gas Commission certainly opposes it, really mainly because it's awfully hard to get people on a normal hearing out in Sidney, Nebraska where the Oil and Gas Commission is located, and try to get them out there for a hearing. They have other things to do, because that's certainly not their main vocation...it's an avocation to be on that Commission in the first place at twenty dollars a day. Even at fifty dollars a day this is not a very remunerative thing for those people, and I certainly oppose this amendment and hope that